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31 October 1962 25X1

Copy No. CED-1C

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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Approved For Release 2003/03/10 : CIA-RDP79T00975A006600520001-1

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DAILY BRIEF

*USSR-US-Cuba: Foreign Minister Gromyko reaffirmed to Ambassador Kohler yesterday that the USSR desires to reach agreement as quickly as possible on the basis of the Kennedy-Khrushchev exchange of letters. He said the Soviet Government "expects the US" will take steps promptly to facilitate a settlement.

Soviet officials at the UN are attempting to capitalize on the disposition among many Afro-Asian delegates to believe that Khrushchev, as a result of the crisis, has succeeded in underlining the sinister nature of any foreign bases. The Soviets hope to create a climate for liquidation of all foreign bases, including the US Guantanamo base.

A Soviet UN spokesman on 29 October implied that Castro has the right to demand that the US withdraw from Guantanamo if the US in fact intends to guarantee Cuba against any aggression. He was "most interested" in making sure that the Afro-Asian press play up this point to the maximum.

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***Cuba:** The Castro regime continues adamant against any kind of foreign inspection of offensive missile sites in Cuba, and Cuban propaganda media emphasize that U Thant has come to Cuba "to negotiate, not to inspect." Thant is due to return to New York today after a second talk with Castro.

Castro is evidently insisting that his "five points"-- demands for major US concessions before any US non-aggression guarantee would be acceptable--be injected into UN discussions of the issue. Soviet propaganda media have begun to refer to these "just Cuban demands." Castro is making every effort to counteract the impression that he is not a free agent which was created by Khrushchev's 28 October letter to President Kennedy. He has scheduled a radio-TV address "to the world" for 1 November.

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NATO-Cuba: Strong expressions of confidence in Washington's handling of the Cuban situation and some anxiety about Khrushchev's future course of action were voiced at the meeting of the North Atlantic Council (NAC) on 29 October.

A strongly congratulatory statement by Belgium's De Staercke on the President's policies was seconded by other delegations. The French noted a feeling in Paris that solid Western support for the US may have been an important factor in Khrushchev's calculations.

At both the 28 and 29 October council meetings there was considerable speculation concerning other possible Soviet moves. It was generally agreed that NATO vigilance and consultation was needed and that a satisfactory solution of the present Cuban situation might create an atmosphere favorable to progress on wider East-West issues, particularly disarmament.

Ambassador Finletter believes the Brazilian resolution on denuclearized zones in Africa and Latin America would be well received in NAC. He noted, however, the problem posed by France's nuclear testing program in Africa and the possibility of pressure from the neutrals in the UN to extend the denuclearized zones into Europe.

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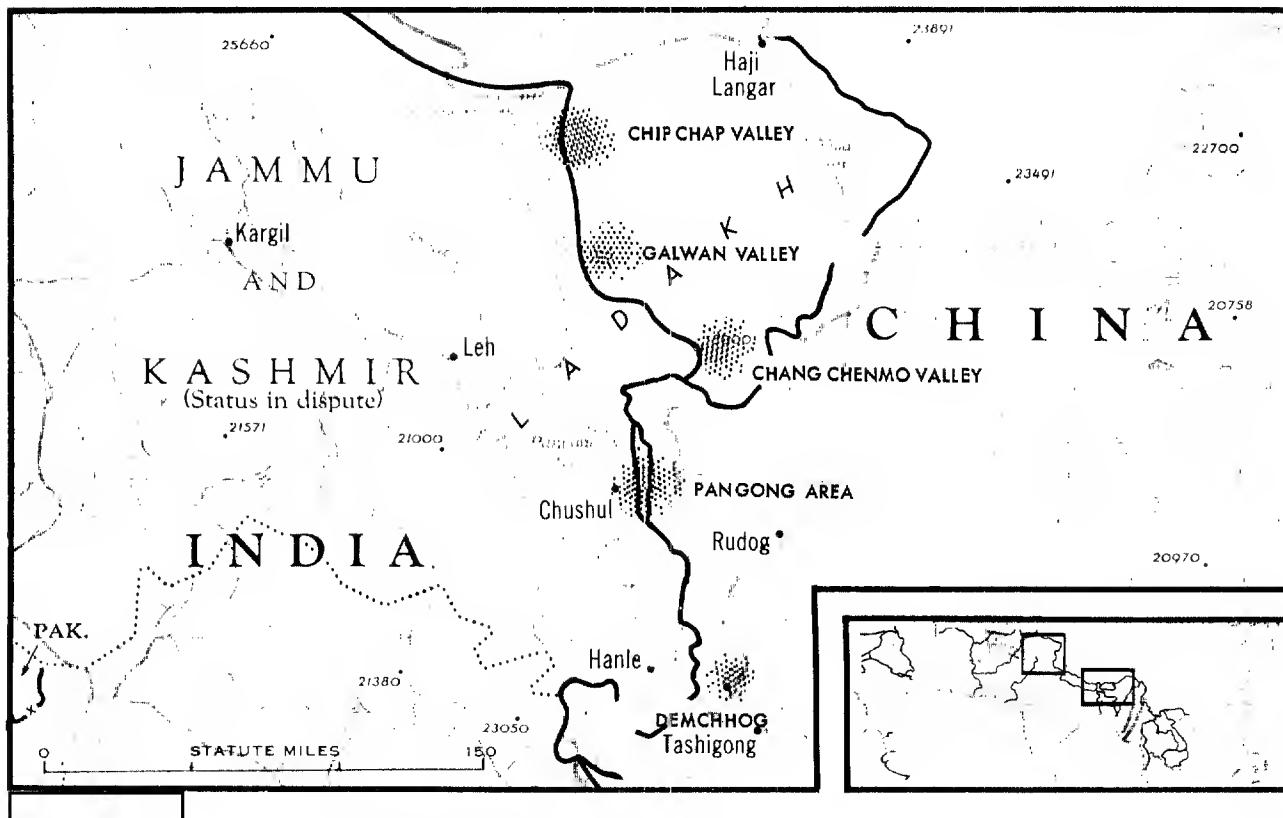
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COMMUNIST CHINA / INDIA BORDER AREAS



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Legend:

- Areas Chinese have occupied since 20 October
- Boundary shown on recent Chinese Communist maps (Where differing from US and Western maps)
- Boundary shown on recent India maps (Where differing from US and Western maps)
- Boundary shown on most US and Western maps
- Road or track
- Spot height (in feet)
- Poss

India - Communist China. Battle lines have begun to stabilize as a result of Indian reinforcements and diminishing Chinese pressure. Winter weather may also be impeding operations at some points.

Press reports that Indian forces in the Northeast Frontier Agency went "on the offensive" on 30 October appear to have been meant primarily for Indian consumption. Indian forces now guarding the northeastern frontier under Fourth Corps commander Kaul are probably sufficient to contain further Chinese advances, but they are not yet adequately equipped or strong enough to retake the positions they have lost.

Turkey has offered India a "plane load" of 75-mm. mountain artillery, and New Delhi has requested American assistance in providing the airlift.

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Cambodia: Sihanouk's proposal for an international agreement to ensure Cambodia's neutrality would require withdrawal of the US military advisory group but would permit retention of the French military training mission for a limited time if Cambodia wished.

The draft accord, approved by the Cambodian National Assembly on 23 October, is to be circulated among the participating nations of the 1962 Geneva conference on Laos for suggested changes and comments.

Cambodian military leaders have expressed serious concern over the threatened loss or curtailment of Western military assistance. They feel that even if present military aid were duplicated by the bloc, this would involve many more conditions than are contained in Cambodia's existing agreements with the West.

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